

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method comprising:  
2 receiving a list of properties associated with storage;  
3 choosing one or more of said properties to build an expression;  
4 evaluating said expression to determine a pool of storage; and  
5 selecting a piece of storage having characteristics defined by the storage properties  
6 in the expression.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving is done by a database administrator  
2 (DBA).

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein choosing is done by a database administrator  
2 (DBA).

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein choosing further comprises choosing a logical  
2 operator to include in the expression.

1 5. The method of claim 2 further comprising determining if all the properties received  
2 by the database administrator are all of the properties wanted by the database  
3 administrator.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising in response to all the properties  
2 received by the database administrator not being all of the properties desired by the  
3 database administrator, adding a property desired by the database administrator.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein selecting properties and operators to build an  
2 expression comprises selecting at least one new property to build the expression.

- 1       8.     The method of claim 1 wherein said step of evaluating is done by a storage  
2     administrator (SA).
- 1       9.     The method of claim 1 wherein selecting is done by a storage administrator (SA).
- 1       10.    The method of claim 1 further comprising validating the storage for operation.
- 1       11.    The method of claim 10 further comprising in response to the validating,  
2     indicating that when there is not enough storage for an operation providing an indication  
3     that the operation can not be carried out.
- 1       12.    The method of claim 10 wherein in response to the validating indicating that there  
2     is enough storage for operation, then completing the operation.
- 1       13.    The method of claim 10 wherein in response to the validating indicating that there  
2     is not enough storage to complete the operation, then performing the operation with the  
3     storage which is available.
- 1       14.    The method of claim 10 wherein the response to the validating indicating that  
2     there is not enough storage to complete the operation then searching for more storage.
- 1       15.    The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2              assigning one or more storage properties to one or more pieces of storage; and  
3              associating at least one storage property with at least one piece of storage.
- 1       16.    The method of claim 15 wherein said assigning is done by a storage  
2     administrator (SA).
- 1       17.    The method of claim 15 wherein said associating is done by a storage  
2     administrator (SA).

1       18.     The method of claim 1 further comprising generating one or more storage  
2     properties.

1       19.     The method of claim 1 further comprising of identifying one or more properties to  
2     associate with a plurality of specific storage devices.

1       20.     The method of claim 1 wherein the storage is not physical storage.

1       21.     The method of claim 18 wherein generating properties comprises generating user-  
2     defined storage properties.

1       22.     The method of claim 16 wherein the system administrator determines if any of the  
2     system is identified as hands-off storage.

1       23.     The method of claim 16 wherein the system administrator determines if any of the  
2     storage is identified as can-use storage.

3  
4  
5       24.     The method of claim 1 wherein said steps of receiving, choosing, evaluating and  
6     selecting are performed as part of an information recovery operation.

1       25.     A method of generating a storage pool comprising:  
2                 assigning one or more storage properties to one or more pieces of storage; and  
3                 associating at least one storage property with at least one piece of storage.

1       26.     The method of claim 25 further comprising generating one or more storage  
2     properties.

1       27.     The method of claim 25 wherein said assigning and associating is performed by a  
2     storage administrator (SA).

1       28.     The method of claim 25 further comprising identifying one or more properties to  
2     associate with a plurality of specific storage devices.

1       29.     The method of claim 25 wherein the storage is not physical storage.

1       30.     The method of claim 26 wherein generating properties comprises generating user-  
2     defined storage properties.

1       31.     The method of claim 27 wherein the system administrator determines if any of the  
2     system is identified as hands-off storage.

1       32.     The method of claim 27 wherein the system administrator determines if any of the  
2     storage is identified as can-use storage.

1       33.     The method of claim 25 wherein said steps of assigning and associating are  
5     performed as part of an information recovery operation.

1       34.     A method comprising the steps of:  
2              receiving a list a properties in a data-base administrator (DBA); and  
3              selecting one or more properties to build an expression.

1       35.     The method of claim 33 wherein selecting properties further comprises selecting a  
2     logical operator to include in the expression.

1       36.     The method claim 35 further comprising determining if all the properties received  
2     by the database administrator are all of the properties wanted by the data-base  
3     administrator.

1       37.     The method of claim 36 further comprising in response to all the properties  
2     received by the database administrator not being all of the properties desired by the  
3     database administrator, adding a property desired by the database administrator.

1       38.     The method of claim 37 wherein selecting properties and operations to build a  
2     expression comprises selecting at least one new property to build the expression.

1       38.     The method of claim 34 wherein said steps of receiving and selecting are  
2     performed as part of an information recovery operation.  
3

4       39.     A method comprising:  
5                 evaluating an expression to determine a pool storage; and  
6                 selecting a piece of storage having characteristics defined by storage properties in  
7     the expression.

1       40.     The method of claim 39 further comprising validating the storage for operation.

2       41.     The method of claim 40 further comprising in response to the validating step  
3     indicating that when there is not enough storage for an operation, providing an indication  
4     that the operation cannot be carried out.

1       42.     The method of claim 40 wherein in response to the validation indicating that there  
2     is enough storage for operation, then completing the operation.

1       43.     The method of claim 40 wherein in response to the validation indicating that there  
2     is not enough storage to complete the operation, then performing the operation with the  
3     storage which is available.

1       44.     The method of claim 40 wherein in response to validation step indicating that  
2     there is not enough storage to complete the operation, then searching for more storage.

1        45. The method of claim 39 wherein said step of evaluating and selecting are  
2 performed as part of an information recovery operation.

Gulf Oil Corp. Confidential